

NIMBLE TOOLS – On-line administration for Students with Accommodations

Nimble Tools® will once again be available during the spring 2012 NECAP Science Test:

The NECAP states (NH, VT, and RI) have received federal funding to continue research and development work with Nimble Innovation Lab/Measured Progress. Through this project, an accessible computer-based test system (NimbleTools) will be available for those students in grades 4, 8, and 11 who have needs for access supports that can be met by using online tools to take the spring 2012 NECAP Science test.

This will be the *sixth* year that schools will be using these access tools: (NimbleTools was previously used with the spring Grade 10 NHEIAP testing in 2006, spring NECAP Science testing in 2009, 2010 and 2011, and Fall 2010 NECAP Reading and Mathematics). NimbleTools was used by more than 4,000 New England students during the spring 2009, 2010, and 2011 NECAP Science Tests.

NimbleTools provides universal access to test content by embedding accessibility and accommodation tools directly into the items as they are presented to students online. Accommodation tools are assigned for each student by his or her teacher based on the needs of the student. During the 2012 NECAP Science administration, survey data will be collected from all participating teachers (who assign accommodations) and their students to understand decision-making processes in access tool assignment and use. Due to required consent issues, these surveys will be paper based and will be mailed to your school. This is federally funded research and it is very important that you help us achieve a good survey response rate by doing your best to get parental consent for students to complete this survey.

Online Access Tools – What are they?

Examples of access tools available through this software include but are not limited to: Read-aloud testing administered discretely through headphones, talking science reference tools, multiple levels of visual magnification, background calming music, masking of parts of the screen to reduce visual overload, color overlays, ‘one-item at a time’ presentation, and other tools that give students a sense of support and individual control during the test taking experience.

What new resources do you have this year?

As part of the work on this grant, you will have additional resources available to you to help make more informed decisions about which access tools should be assigned to students. Please visit the project website at www.nimbletools.com/necap/schools to view an accessibility animation, updated orientation files, and new practice tests.

School Principals or Designated School Test Coordinators:

If you are interested in allowing students in your school to use NimbleTools to take the grade 4, 8, or 11 NECAP Science assessment, you must register for the 15-minute WebEx session that is required for school participation at: <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>. The training sessions are scheduled for March 27th at 9am or March 28th at 2pm.

After attending a WebEx session, schools will be sent the necessary information to prepare for testing, to register participating students, and to assign tools for their use during the test.

For more information on NimbleTools:

Please email saas@measuredprogress.org or call (603) 749-9102 (Ext. 3660) or (Ext. 3667).